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Message to the North American Council and
the Governments of all NATO Countries

On October 22, 1962, the President of the United States announced that the presence of offensive weapons in Cuba, which had been secretly placed there by the Soviet Union, made it necessary for the United States, after consultation with the Organization of American States, to take action to protect the security of the Western Hemisphere against the threat posed by these weapons. Accordingly, during the past several days the United States has taken a series of precautionary and protective actions. In the first place, in order to inform itself as to whether the Soviet offensive weapons in Cuba, particularly the medium range ballistic missiles, had reached a stage of operational readiness where they might be launched against the Western Hemisphere, close surveillance was maintained over these missile sites by ^{unarmed} U. S. military aircraft. Secondly, the United States acted through a limited quarantine to prevent the further shipment of offensive weapons into Cuba. Thirdly, the United States has approached the Soviet Government, both directly and through the good offices of the Acting Secretary General of the United Nations, to suggest that further build-up of the offensive weapons be halted, the weapons already in place be rendered inoperable, and further shipment of such weapons cease, all pending an

effort to arrive at a peaceful solution of the issues presented. These later proposals have not been responded to by the Soviet Union. On the contrary, the construction on the missile sites has continued, and there is every indication that more of the missiles are becoming operationally ready. Moreover, the ^{warmed} U. S. military aircraft which today were conducting publicly announced surveillance over Cuba were exposed to intensive ground fire, and one of such aircraft was shot down.

In these circumstances, the United States Government, both in its own interests and that of its fellow nations in the Western Hemisphere, is constrained to take whatever military action may be necessary to remove the growing threat to the Hemisphere posed by these operationally ready missiles, the status of which cannot safely be assured any longer through close surveillance. The Soviet Union, in one of a series of inconsistent and conflicting messages, has equated the existence of the Jupiter missiles in Turkey, which were placed there in fulfillment of the Turkish Government's commitment for the defense of NATO, with the ^{warmed} missiles and other offensive ^{warmed} missiles which the Soviets have placed in Cuba. Although there is in fact no symmetry between the defense of NATO and peace in the Caribbean, it may be that, if the United States acts in defense of its vital interests and those of its Western Hemisphere

allies against the threat in Cuba, the Soviet Government will take ^{as well as} military action against the Jupiter missiles in Turkey. ^{over}

Wishing to minimize the possibility of such an attack upon Turkey, and possibly upon other NATO countries, the United States is willing, if the other members of the NATO alliance so desire, to render the Jupiter missiles in Turkey inoperative by removal of their warheads and to notify the Soviet Government to such an effect prior to moving against the Soviet missiles in Cuba. The United States Government is also willing to take steps to insure that the targets now covered by the Jupiter missiles in Turkey will be permanently assigned to other weapons systems capable of striking such targets. Such steps could include, if the NATO alliance so desires, the positioning of Polaris submarines carrying the equivalent numbers of missiles in the Mediterranean.

In view of the urgent nature of the decisions involved in these actions, the members of the NATO alliance are asked to consult immediately and advise the United States of their position with respect to the course of action which appears to them to be in the best interests of the alliance.

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to members of the U.S.*

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